

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT
U.S. Appln. No. 10/752,674

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-14. (Cancelled)

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising equol which is obtained by causing a strain of a live microorganism capable of metabolizing daidzein to equol to act upon a daidzein-containing substance, wherein said strain is selected from the group consisting of *Bacteroides* E-23-15, which has been deposited as FERM BP-6435, *Streptococcus* E-23-17, which has been deposited as FERM BP-6436, and *Streptococcus* A6G-225, which has been deposited as FERM BP-6437.

Claims 16-17. (Cancelled).

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 15, which further contains at least one component that favors the maintenance and growth of the strain.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 15, wherein the component that favors the maintenance and growth of the strain is at least one substance selected from the group consisting of galactosylsucrose, soybean-oligosaccharide, lactulose, lactitol and fructo-oligosaccharide.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 15, wherein said daidzein-containing substance further contains at least one member selected from the group consisting of genistein, daidzin and genistin.

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Claim 21. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 15, wherein the daidzein-containing substance is soya isoflavone.

Claim 22. (Cancelled).

Claim 23. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 15, wherein said composition is a food composition.

Claim 24. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 23, wherein the food composition is selected from the group consisting of a drink, dairy product, and fermented milk.

Claim 25. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 15, which is in a pharmaceutical dosage form.

Claim 26. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 25, wherein the pharmaceutical dosage form is selected from the group consisting of aqueous solutions, emulsions, granules, powders, capsules and tablets.

Claims 27-32. (Cancelled).

Claim 33. (New) A method for treating menopausal syndrome in a middle-aged to elderly woman comprising administering to a middle-aged to elderly woman in need thereof, the composition of Claim 15.

Claim 34. (New) A method for treating menopausal syndrome in a middle-aged to elderly woman comprising administering to a middle-aged to elderly woman in need thereof, the composition of Claim 18.

Claim 35. (New) A method for treating menopausal syndrome in a middle-aged to elderly woman comprising administering to a middle-aged to elderly woman in need thereof, the composition of Claim 19.

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Claim 36. (New) A method for treating menopausal syndrome in a middle-aged to elderly woman comprising administering to a middle-aged to elderly woman in need thereof, the composition of Claim 20.

Claim 37. (New) A method for treating menopausal syndrome in a middle-aged to elderly woman comprising administering to a middle-aged to elderly woman in need thereof, the composition of Claim 21.

Claim 38. (New) A method for treating menopausal syndrome in a middle-aged to elderly woman comprising administering to a middle-aged to elderly woman in need thereof, the composition of Claim 23.

Claim 39. (New) A method for treating menopausal syndrome in a middle-aged to elderly woman comprising administering to a middle-aged to elderly woman in need thereof, the composition of Claim 24.

Claim 40. (New) A method for treating menopausal syndrome in a middle-aged to elderly woman comprising administering to a middle-aged to elderly woman in need thereof, the composition of Claim 25.

Claim 41. (New) A method for treating menopausal syndrome in a middle-aged to elderly woman comprising administering to a middle-aged to elderly woman in need thereof, the composition of Claim 26.

Claim 42. (New) A method for treating postmenopausal osteoporosis in a middle-aged to elderly woman comprising administering to a middle-aged to elderly woman in need thereof, the composition of Claim 15.

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Claim 43. (New) A method for treating postmenopausal osteoporosis in a middle-aged to elderly woman comprising administering to a middle-aged to elderly woman in need thereof, the composition of Claim 18.

Claim 44. (New) A method for treating postmenopausal osteoporosis in a middle-aged to elderly woman comprising administering to a middle-aged to elderly woman in need thereof, the composition of Claim 19.

Claim 45. (New) A method for treating postmenopausal osteoporosis in a middle-aged to elderly woman comprising administering to a middle-aged to elderly woman in need thereof, the composition of Claim 20.

Claim 46. (New) A method for treating postmenopausal osteoporosis in a middle-aged to elderly woman comprising administering to a middle-aged to elderly woman in need thereof, the composition of Claim 21.

Claim 47. (New) A method for treating postmenopausal osteoporosis in a middle-aged to elderly woman comprising administering to a middle-aged to elderly woman in need thereof, the composition of Claim 23.

Claim 48. (New) A method for treating postmenopausal osteoporosis in a middle-aged to elderly woman comprising administering to a middle-aged to elderly woman in need thereof, the composition of Claim 24.

Claim 49. (New) A method for treating postmenopausal osteoporosis in a middle-aged to elderly woman comprising administering to a middle-aged to elderly woman in need thereof, the composition of Claim 25.

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Claim 50. (New) A method for treating postmenopausal osteoporosis in a middle-aged to elderly woman comprising administering to a middle-aged to elderly woman in need thereof, the composition of Claim 26.